

In the Claims:

81. (Four times Amended) A wear assembly for an excavator having a lip with a front edge face for digging, the wear assembly comprising:

a boss adapted to be fixed to an excavator lip, the boss including a front structure with an inner surface that is bent and fixed along a face of the lip and the digging edge, a rear structure having a first shoulder that extends generally away from the digging edge, and a bearing surface, wherein the rear structure includes a rearwardly extending leg that substantially overlies the lip, and the front structure wraps around the digging edge to define a second leg;

a wear member including a second shoulder that engages the first shoulder to hold the wear member to the boss and prevent release of the wear member in a direction perpendicular to the extension of the front shoulder, and an opening; and

a lock received into the opening in the wear member and in contact with the bearing surface of the boss to prevent disconnection of the first and second shoulders and thereby retain the wear member to the boss.

119. (Amended) A wear assembly for attachment along a lip of an excavator comprising:

a boss fixed to the lip;

a wear member having (i) a forwardly projecting working end, (ii) a rearwardly extending leg having an inner side adapted to face the lip, a rear wall generally transverse to the inner side, and a longitudinal slot open in the inner side

and the rear wall of the leg to receive the boss and thereby provide support to the position of the wear member on the lip, and (iii) an opening; and

a lock received into the opening and maintained to one side of the lip for engagement between bearing surfaces on the boss and the wear member to retain the wear member to the lip, the lock including a body and an adjustment member movably secured to the body such that movement of the adjustment member relative to the body expands the lock between the bearing surfaces and thereby moves the wear member rearward to thereby tighten the mounting of the wear member on the lip.

135. (Amended) A wear member for mounting on a front lip of an excavator having a fixed boss, the wear member comprising (i) a forwardly projecting working end, (ii) a rearwardly extending leg having an inner side to face the lip, a rear wall generally transverse to the inner side, and a longitudinal slot open in the inner side and the rear wall of the leg to receive the boss and thereby provide support to the position of the wear member on the lip, the slot including a rearwardly-facing bearing surface at a front end thereof for abutting against a front wall of the boss in face-to-face contact for resisting rearwardly directed loading on the wear member during use, and (iii) a lock receiving opening extending through the wear member and having a first forwardly-facing bearing surface extending generally transverse to the lip to contact the lock.

139. (New) A wear member in accordance with claim 135 wherein the rearwardly-facing bearing surface extends out of the slot.

140. (New) A wear member in accordance with claim 135 wherein the slot has a generally uniform cross-section from the front end to the rear wall.